

## **Activities and Ideas for Introducing the Braille +**

- ➔ Record and play back the lunch menu. Every class has a daily lunch menu. Instead of having the teacher read the lunch choices for the day have your student play the choices for the class. Initially you may want to record and file the menu yourself and just have the student locate and playback the menu.
  - The student will have practice creating a recording
  - The student will have practice listening and repeating (dictation)
  - The student will have practice utilizing the pause/restart button aka the select key. Start the recording and press pause. Dictate the first choice to your student. Resume recording and allow the student to repeat what you have said. Pause and repeat until completed.
  - The student will have practice renaming the recording such as lunch menu 5-3.
  - The student will have practice locating a specific recording
  - The student will have practice deleting a recording
  - This simple activity will allow your student to participate in classroom jobs as well as reinforce the Braille + as a daily tool.
- Record and playback the morning message or daily announcement. As the morning message or daily announcement maybe to lengthy to complete using dictation, have your student choose a classmate to assist with the recording by reading the message.
  - The student will have practice creating a recording.
  - Opportunity to interact with peers and share their device.
  - Practice giving directions to others as to how the device works and a recording is created.
  - The student will have practice utilizing the pause/restart button aka the select key. Start the recording and press pause.
  - The student will have practice playing back a recording
  - This activity works well with my students as they love to participate and the other students are intrigued by the Braille +.
  - It allows other students to become accustom to seeing something different and they are more accepting.

➔ Use the calender feature to add special events, fields trips, or cycle days. This is another way the students can share information with the class using their Braille +

- This is a good way to introduce a calender
- Your student can assist in creating an appointment.
- Your student will a get practice using the arrow keys for navigation to locate a specific date.
- Your student will have the opportunity to utilize un-contracted Braille, and ASCII numbers.
- Your student depending on their level could add attachments to the calender.
- They will have opportunities to learn about the different ways dates are writing i.e. mm/dd/yyyy
- They will also get to practice locating a specific date.
- And lastly they will learn organization and pre-planning.
- Consider adding variations: inserting a voice recording. Interact with peers and obtain sighted assistance to read the classroom calender, as well as opportunities to utilize the devise as a daily tool .

➔ Utilize the Recording option to create a audio book for the class.

- This will allow your student opportunities to practice oral reading
- Their recorded book can be saved as and MP3 file and transferred to a flash drive or portable MP3 player that uses a USB connection.
- Allow other students to participate in creating your audio library. This will make reading more fun for the entire class as well as provide additional opportunities for your student to practice utilizing the recording options such as save and rename using the Book Title. The recordings can be shared utilized a common \$10 USB MP3 player.
- You may also consider additional instruction in marking a file, moving a file to a different location, or using the save as feature to create a copy of the Audio on to the USB drive.

➔ Utilize the voice recorder to create a rough draft of written reports. Then utilize their draft as they type out the report.

➔ Use the Braille display for writing assignments. This works well for worksheets and workbooks as it makes filling in the blank easy.

- ➔ Use Commercial Audio Books (.mp3 files) as motivation to practice the Music Player features.
  - Your student will have opportunities to listen to audio books during silent reading time or free time.
  - Use a headphone splitter so they can share their books and listen to stories with peers.
  - Your student will have practice creating play lists or a designated file that contains the audio book tracks only.
  - Have your student utilize a flash drive to download files using the auditory prompts.
  - Have your student listen to the music file menu and use the menu button and arrow keys to move a track to a specific play list.
  - While downloading select explore the flash drive and practice moving an entire folder to a play list.
- ➔ Have your student participate in journal writing with the rest of the class using the journal located in the tools menu.
- ➔ Use the address book to input emergency contact information in the event they are lost or need help or simply to keep track of personal contacts.
  - They will have practice writing phone numbers, names, and addresses learning about the different ways people can be contacted.
  - Use the theme if you get separated from your parents and need help have them locate their parents contact information in the address book to share.
  - If your student is non-verbal or has difficulty verbally communicating with others utilize the address book and have them input information about themselves to share with others in an emergency.